

PHYS-101(en) **General physics : mechanics (English)**

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Cursus	Sem.	Type
Chemistry and chemical engineering	BA1	Obl.
Civil Engineering	BA1	Obl.
Communication systems	BA1	Obl.
Computer science	BA1	Obl.
Electrical and Electronical Engineering	BA1	Obl.
Environmental Sciences and Engineering	BA1	Obl.
Life Sciences Engineering	BA1	Obl.
Materials Science and Engineering	BA1	Obl.
Mathematics	BA1	Obl.
Mechanical engineering	BA1	Obl.
Microtechnics	BA1	Obl.

Language of teaching	English
Coefficient	6
Session	Winter
Semester	Fall
Exam	Written
Workload	180h
Weeks	14
Hours	6 weekly
Courses	3 weekly
Exercises	3 weekly
Number of positions	308

Summary

Students will learn the principles of mechanics to enable a better understanding of physical phenomena, such as the kinematics and dynamics of point masses and solid bodies. Students will acquire the capacity to quantitatively analyze these effects with the appropriate theoretical tools.

Content

The course may contain, but not exclusively, the following elements :

Mechanics**Introduction and kinematics**

Reference frames, trajectories, velocity, acceleration, Cartesian, spherical and cylindrical coordinates.

Dynamics of the point mass and solid body

Momentum, Newton's laws, fundamental forces, empirical forces and constraints. Oscillatory motion, Angular momentum.

Work, power, energy

Kinetic energy, potential energy, conservation laws, gravitational motion. Collisions.

Keywords

General physics, point masses, coordinates, kinematics, energy, work

Learning Prerequisites**Recommended courses**

Math level required for "maturité fédérale", see on the left the hyperlinks and the book, indicative of the level of math appropriate for a good start at EPFL.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Develop a know-how to solve a problem
- Structure models in terms of differentials equations

- Apply simplifying assumptions to describe an experience
- Estimate orders of magnitude
- Distinguish the theoretical models describing Nature
- Contextualise theoretical models in every day life
- Formulate a physical model

Transversal skills

- Use a work methodology appropriate to the task.

Teaching methods

Lectures + exercises

Assessment methods

The course concludes with a written exam

Resources

Bibliography

- Serway, Physics for Scientists and Engineers.
- Douglas Giancoli. Physics for Scientists and Engineers. 4th Edition.
- D. Halliday, R. Resnick, K. S. Krane. Physics, Volume 1.

Ressources en bibliothèque

- [Serway, Physics for Scientists and Engineers.](#)
- [D. Halliday, R. Resnick, K. S. Krane. Physics, Volume 1](#)
- [Douglas Giancoli. Physics for Scientists and Engineers. 4th Edition](#)

Prerequisite for

General physics II